

**Lake Michigan Fisheries Team**  
**9 am to 3 pm, Thursday, January 26, 2006**  
**Center for Great Lakes Studies, 600 E. Greenfield, Milwaukee**

**Draft Notes –prepared by Bill Horns**

- 1. Review/revise/cull agenda**
- 2. Review/approve meeting notes from November 16, 2005**
- 3. Brief updates**

Time was allowed for short updates and reminders of topics of interest. The following were mentioned:

- Lake Michigan Tech Committee winter meeting (January 24-25) notes
- Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act reauthorization
- 2005 State of the Lake report
- Great Lakes strain of spotted musky
  - Note: I agreed to follow-up re connecting with DATCP to allow import of eggs
- Plans to estimate using OTC marks the % of LM chinooks that are naturally reproduced
- Use of gift account to cover costs of monitoring tournaments
  - Note: Brad and Paul proposed using Salmon Stamp funds to cover these costs starting this summer. The LMFT endorsed using \$6000 for that purpose. I will discuss this with Hewett and Staggs, and if they agree we will formalize it with an amendment to the creel survey project.
- All the numbers are not crunched, but size-at-age of chinook salmon returning to Strawberry Creek continued to decline in 2005, as expected
- Algoma/Kewaunee GLSF has offered to try to raise funds from Fish America for a well to supply the salmon pond on the Kewaunee River at Cty Hwy E.
  - Note: Paul will draft a letter to Fish America for Mike Staggs' signature supporting the club's proposal.
- The FWS is proposing to treat the Kewaunee River with TFM, indicating that the BAFF trap and dam is not stopping sea lamprey
- Chapters are needed for the 2006 edition of Lake Michigan Management Reports
- The annual meeting of the Lake Michigan Committee will be in Windsor, where all five lake committees will meet during the week of March 20-24.
  - Note: I will draft a memo for Mike Staggs' signature to the SER, NER, and NOR water leaders stating that he encourages support for travel to the meetings by LM and LS biologists if funds are available in existing budgets.

**4. Cormorants**

Background. Sarah Meadows is near completion of the two-year study of predation on yellow perch by cormorants and the Department will soon have to decide about whether to initiate a cormorant control program in 2006. The Cormorant Team had the Monday prior to the LMFT meeting to discuss the situation. Sarah gave a presentation of her data for the team.

Action. Discussion

**5. Yellow perch**

Background. *Green Bay.* It seems likely that the Green Bay perch rule (FH-27-05) will take effect in time for the May 20 opener. If the population continues to do well, we will be expected at some point to increase sport and commercial harvests further. I know that some LMFT members are skeptical about linking commercial harvest limits to estimated sport harvests, but now that we have a little breathing room I would like to raise that idea again for discussion. *Lake Michigan.* A lot of little yellow perch were observed in 2005. What is the future there?

Action. Discussion

## **6. Project ideas for research and habitat rehabilitation grants.**

Background. From time to time we receive solicitations of project ideas from the Lake Michigan Fisheries Trust, the Great Lakes Protection Fund, the NRDA Trustees, the Great Lakes National Program Office, the Coastal Zone Program, and others. Can we get better at taking advantage of these?

Action. Discussion. Mike Donofrio re-iterated the suggestion that we do more brainstorming and bank some ideas to flesh out in proposals as opportunities arise.

## **7. Kettle Moraine Springs water issues and steelhead**

Background. Because of reduced water flows at KMSSFH it may be necessary to stock some steelhead out early this spring. Randy Link will attend to discuss the situation with us. Last time we met, we ranked improvements at KMSSFH or WRSFH highest for uses of available uncommitted Salmon Stamp funds. The Region and Al Kaas are discussing a proposal to drill one or more new high capacity wells at KMSSFH, but there are environmental issues that have to be addressed first.

Right now there are approximately 70,000 Arlee fingerlings and 140,000 fingerlings of each steelhead strain in the main hatchery. There are also 70,000 Kamloops fingerlings and 30,000 unclipped Chambers Creek fingerlings in the annex. Full stocking of the brood rivers will require 70,000 Kamloops, 62,000 Chambers Creek, and 62,000 Ganaraska.

Action. The team recommended the following strategy: 1) Stock Kamloops as necessary to assure sufficient space for the Chambers Creek in the annex. 2) Stock non-brood rivers as needed to allow space to produce 70,000 six-inch Skamania, 62,000 six-inch Chambers Creek, and 62,000 as-large-as possible Ganaraska for the brood rivers. 3) Do not stock Arlees out early. The team also identified the following questions for future discussion: 1) Which strain of nearshore rainbows do we prefer for the future? 2) How many eggs should be taken this spring? 3) How do we fix the long-term problem? 4) Do we want to continue to produce three strains of steelhead? 5) Should we set a 194,000 fish production goal until a long-term solution is found to the hatcheries water problems?

## **8. Sturgeon restoration**

Background. The grant money has been secured and plans are moving forward to the construction of a streamside facility on the Milwaukee River. It is going less smoothly on the Manitowoc. Brad and Steve updated us.

Action. Discussion

## **9. Lake trout**

Background. In December I circulated a memo suggesting a set of positions on lake trout restoration. Several of you expressed agreement, and I don't think I heard any dissent. Since then I have reviewed some ideas about negotiating, and I realize that, while those positions are reasonable, a better approach to negotiating an agreement in the LMC is to enter the process with a list of our interests, not our positions.

This is consistent with an approach to negotiation known as "principled negotiation" that is espoused in the book Getting to Yes. See the following web site for a summary:

[www.colorado.edu/conflict/peace/example/fish7513.htm](http://www.colorado.edu/conflict/peace/example/fish7513.htm).

Action. No discussion or action.

## **10. Next meeting date and location**

March 7. DNR sun porch at Plymouth service center.